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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

South Africa:* draft resolution

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002, 58/212 of 23 December 2003, 59/236 of 22 December 2004 and 60/202 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[2] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recalling that the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity has been ratified by 189 Member States,

Recalling also the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Noting that the contribution of the ongoing work of the World Intellectual Property Organization Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore can make to enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

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Acknowledging that an unprecedented effort is needed to achieve the objective of significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010,

Noting the ongoing discussions in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2006 to harness the potential of South-South cooperation in the area of biodiversity,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Brazil for hosting the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Curitiba from 20 to 31 March, and from 13 to 17 March 2006, respectively,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Germany for its offer to host the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;[3]

2. *Notes* the outcome of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Notes also* the outcome of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

4. *Notes further* the progress made with respect to the achievement of the three objectives set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

6. *Reiterates* the commitment of States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[4] to support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other biodiversity-related agreements and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and to continue to negotiate within the framework of the Convention, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,[5] an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

7. *Notes* the progress made in the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing and the decision to conclude negotiations by 2010, and urges parties to make every effort to complete the negotiation process within the established time frame;

[3] A/61/225.

[4] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[5] UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, annex I, decision VI/24 A.

8. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

9. *Calls for* accelerating the work on the development-related mandate concerning the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially on issues of making intellectual property rules to fully support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

10. *Notes* the progress made at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the continuing efforts made towards the implementation of the Protocol, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

11. *Calls upon* Member States, in the context of bilateral and regional arrangements, to respect the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially those related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recent pledges made by the international community at the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, at the third Global Environment Facility Assembly held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2006, and stresses the importance of fulfilment of the commitments;

13. *Takes note* of the Resource Allocation Framework of the Global Environment Facility, and in this regard emphasizes that its implementation should, inter alia, enhance the capacity of national Global Environment Facility and biodiversity focal points of developing countries in developing and implementing project proposals;

14. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention;

15. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so;

16. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[6]

17. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

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[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001* (C 2001/REP), appendix D.

18. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

19. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[7] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[8] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

20. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[8] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.